

CUBA'S STRUGGLE.

Some Facts as to the Condition of Affairs Between Spain and Her Colony.

The following article is taken from the New York World, furnished by a special correspondent in Cuba:

Never in the history of colonial wars has there been massed a more formidable body of men than is drawn up under the Spanish flag in Cuba. And the revolutionists, too, are better equipped now than their leaders, Gomez and Maceo, had dared to dream possible when they were counting their cartridges one to each man last winter.

The Cuban Junta in New York had not handled its arms and ammunition with masterly judgment until last June. Too many cartridges had gone to the eastern part of the island. That was then and is now the virtual "Cuba Libre." Since then the energetic Dr. Castillo and his comrades have evaded Spanish cruisers, gunboats and launches and have put cannon, rifles and cartridges into the hands of the men that needed them most—the soldiers of Antonio Maceo in Western Cuba. The stronger leaders in Havana and Matanzas provinces have also been liberally supplied.

Inflated reports as to vast amounts of war munitions sent to Cuba have put the struggling revolutionists in a false light. If Gomez and Maceo had received half of the filibustering expeditions alleged to have set out for them since the beginning of the war, 20 months ago, the Cuban Republic's legislators would now be making laws in the palace at Havana. The Cuban chiefs have actually fought their raw recruits with "corn cutters" as their chief equipment, and that against three times as many troops, splendidly armed.

For almost seventeen out of the twenty months the Cuban generals have struggled at these tremendous odds. What they have done is shown by the map of the island. It gives some idea of what the same leaders may be expected to accomplish this winter with troops better disciplined and armed. Their soldiers will now have cartridges in their pouches, while last year they had none.

According to modern ideas of war the supplies sent to Cuba this fall seem pitifully inadequate to equip 50,000 men for a campaign against 200,000. But the revolutionists have been accustomed to a grudging use of ammunition. One may expect results equal to those of ten times as many cartridges, expended as our soldiers might use them. The Junta was particularly active during August and September. They landed no less than 5,000,000 cartridges on the coast of Cuba, both east and west. Gomez and Maceo should enter the campaign with 4,000,000 at least.

The effectiveness of the Cuban army has been increased further by 12,000 good military rifles. Over 1,500 of them were landed in August.

There are 50,000 Cubans in the field. All have serviceable firearms. There are 25,000 more "macheterous," who are armed only with the machete. Of the rifles about 30,000 are capable of straight shooting to long range. Most of the ammunition lately landed was for those weapons. So the Cuban leaders have 30,000 equipped comparatively well. They have 120 cartridges each. In Cuba this is a great many.

Most important of all Gomez and Maceo look at last on a train of field artillery. They have seven Hotchkiss improved field pieces, built for transportation on mule-back. Four of the guns are 12-pounders. One is a 10-pounder. Two are 2-pounders. The train is furnished with 2,000 projectiles and shells.

Then they have two dynamite guns of recent patent—tremendously destructive weapons. They throw four pounds of nitrogelatin. It is equivalent to eighty pounds of the best quick-rifle powder. The Spanish General Bernal, who knows, says that the explosion of one of these shells would be "a Vesuvius, with scores of bodies flying through the air." These guns have an effective range of a mile and a half. Like the regular cannon they are handled by experienced artillerymen most of whom were trained in the United States or England.

Glowing reports have placed the revolutionists in secure possession of clothing and shoe shops, tanneries, armories and powder mills. In actual fact, there is not a permanent Cuban army work-place on the island. Each command usually carries a rudimentary kit of tools, with an amateur workman, for simple rifle repairs. In some few secluded mountain valleys are details of men who make rude bragans. When cloth can be smuggled out of the Spanish towns it is made into officers' clothing by patriotic women, who work on American sewing machines.

Clothing is scarce. In some of the western commands a shawl about the loins is the private soldier's only uniform. Of shoes he is absolutely guiltless. But Cuba's heart transforms a lack of clothing from hardship to a comfort. The toughened Cuban can shoot as well unshod as in patent leather and spats.

Gunshot wounds in this torrid clime are ghastly, and much medicine, mostly antiseptic, has been sent to the field. Prompt and thorough surgical attendance is especially needed when the wound is from a Spanish brass-

ed-case leadened ball. The Cubans have captured thousands of these bullets, and the Spaniards complain bitterly when they are shot from Cuban rifles. The pellets then become "explosive."

Drill and discipline have been daily orders during the comparative quiet of the rainy season. The military knowledge lately gained will greatly enhance the value of new arms and ammunition. It will make possible the formation of a steady infantry support for the Cuban artillery. Without that the glistening new cannon, on which hang so many of the fond hopes of Cuba Libre, would pass into Spanish hands.

The organization of the Cuban civil government has been practically completed. The island is districted, from its eastern to its western tip, into small civil jurisdictions, called *Perfecciones*. Half of this was accomplished during the last six months.

The establishment of these local civil branches means a more systematic cultivation of food for the Cuban armies and for the families of those in the field. It offers better facilities for the care of the wounded, a rapid "pony-express" mail service through Cuba's 750 miles of length, a persistent maintenance of revolutionary sentiment, and a perfected system of obtaining and forwarding information as to the movements of Spanish troops.

Gen. Weyler knows how indispensable is the aid of the peaceable farmers to the success of the Cuban cause, and he has ordered them into the fortified towns of Pinar del Rio Province. He cannot be obeyed. These towns would not hold a tenth of the refugees. They would starve if they did go there, for they have no money with which to buy food, and Weyler has announced that he cannot provide for them. The farmers of Pinar del Rio will stay on their estates this winter to give the insurgents the same valuable aid as during the last campaign.

With their new artillery, the revolutionists have already begun to capture the small fortified towns of the interior. They are a hundred-fold better prepared than ever before to maintain their control of rural Cuba.

The last 50,000 soldiers sent to Gen. Weyler are not boys. The youngest class of conscripts has been exhausted and the late arrivals are matured men, with a liberal percentage of veterans.

The Spanish staff and field officers are more familiar with the exceedingly difficult topography of Cuba than they were a year ago. They have a complete system of heliograph stations in small mountain-top forts that enables the General commanding to keep in close touch with his columns in operation.

It is not likely that these observation points will be molested by the Cubans, for their ammunition can be used more effectively against the fortified towns.

Gen. Weyler has another strong advantage in his control of several railways. The insurgents leaders have not appreciated the importance of disabling these lines. All through the rainy season the Spanish generals have used them to save their troops long and disabling marches.

The largest is the Western Railroad. It runs from Havana City, through the province of Pinar del Rio, to its capital, and passes close to the best Cuban positions in the northern mountain chain. Another road goes south from Havana to Batavano, and another runs east into the province of Matanzas.

Unless broken these lines can be used with telling effect against the Cubans. But it is not unlikely, with plenty of dynamite and Yankees to use it, the Cuban generals will soon blow up every dangerous railroad on the island.

The regular Spanish infantry is brave, thoroughly disciplined and superbly drilled. Weak soldiers have been weeded out by fever and the diseases of the wet season. It has left a sturdy lot of men—marchers and fighters who cannot be surpassed.

With 3,000 miles of a coast, abounding in bays and coves, it is not likely that Gen. Weyler can head off clever filibustering. But new and fast boats are building, and, when received, the successful landing of expeditions will be more difficult.

Both sides look for many sharp engagements in the coming campaign in the level portions of the island. These may be serious affairs.

That this winter's campaign should close the war is generally conceded.

As an emergency medicine, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral takes the lead of all other remedies. For the relief and cure of croup, whooping-cough, sore throat, and the dangerous pulmonary troubles to which the young are so liable, it is invaluable, being prompt to act, sure to cure.

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Most of the luxuries and many of the so called comforts of life, are not only indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind. With respect to luxuries and comforts, the wisest have ever lived a more simple and meagre life than the poor.

An honest man who stood upon the ragged edge of death, but was convinced of the truth.

CALAIS, ME., May 13, 1896.

John Boyd, mason, 61 years old, says: "Last Spring I was very sick and miserable, had no appetite, could not sleep at night, began to think my time had come, and that I was to join the great majority. I walked around the streets feeling entirely used up, was good for nothing, could not do a minute's work, until like a drowning man gasping for straws, concluded to try Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla, and began using it, as directed; it began to help me from the first trial. After using three bottles, my old-fashioned good health returned to me, and have been well and strong ever since. I cannot express in language the great worth of this wonderful medicine and what I think of it." Yours truly, JOHN BOYD.

HELP CAME AT LAST.

I have been a hard working man doing general work. Over one year ago I suffered a severe attack of LaGrippe. It left me in a helpless condition. I suffered with severe pains in my back and could not do any work. I was advised to try Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla. I used five bottles, and it is marvelous how quick it cured me. That is over two years ago, and my health since that time has never been better. LINDSAY SCOTT. Calais, Me., Jan., 1896.

PRINCETON, May 23d.

THOMSON SARSAPARILLA CO.: Having the LaGrippe last winter, I was left run down and I began to think I would never get any strength. E. H. Hall, of Calais, called at my place and advised me to take Thomson's Sarsaparilla. He said he would send three bottles if I would take them, and after taking two bottles I began to gain strength. I then took two more, and I must say of all the different kinds of medicines I have taken, it is with me one of the best. And I will say that I thank Mr. Hall and the Thomson Sarsaparilla Co. for what it has done for me. C. A. ROBBINS.

Given up in despair to die.

PATRICK MYERS, of Calais, Me., says: "I was troubled with eruptions on the face and body, causing at times a burning and itching sensation which was almost unendurable; could do no work. I tried to get help from a number of our physicians, and paid them hundreds of dollars, which proved hopeless, was confined to my bed. I gave up entirely to despair. I was advised to try Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla, and I used eight bottles which entirely cured me. It purified my blood, restored my appetite, made me feel like a new man. Today an word about my work, not forgetting to speak great words of praise for the above medicine."

Weak, Nervous, Sleepless, Tired and Run Down.

Nothing is so common today as the complaint of weak nerves. Read the testimony of MR. H. W. EATON, of Calais, Me.:

My nerves were so unstrung that it was a burden for me to do any business, and sleep was out of the question, also had considerable difficulty with my stomach. I tried Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla, and it proved a blessing to me. I think everything of it, it is a great medicine, and it is a pleasure for me to recommend it.

There are numberless people who do not call themselves sick, yet who are not well. They feel weak, nervous, languid and tired. They have lost their vim, power of endurance and ambition to work. Most people have these feelings in the spring, because at this season the blood is impure, the nerves weakened, and the liver, kidney and bowels inactive.

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